

14th Basic Course on Aerobiology

15-20 July, 2019

Lyon, France

by Daria Bilińska

It was six intensive days. Days full of theoretical knowledge, practical exercises and social activities. Another Basic Course on Aerobiology was held from July 15th to July 20th in Lyon, France. Twenty-three people from over ten countries participated in it. The goal was common – obtain knowledge on pollen and fungal spores.

The course took place in Lyon Catholic University, which formerly was... a jail. During the six days participants got knowledge both theoretical – i.e. on biology of pollen and fungal spores, phenology, meteorological aspects in aerobiology, statistics and modelling used in aerobiology, and practical. During practical lessons, partakers learned how to recognise over 31 taxa of pollen and 9 taxa of fungal spores. The build of the Hirst pollen trap and preparation of the slides were also introduced. Participants also had a chance to speak with a producer of aerobiology equipment.



Fig. 1 Place of learning - a former jail



Fig. 2 Practical exercises



Fig 3 And a little bit of theory

To not let our brains turn into the vapour, our schedule had a place for delicious meals and also Lyon sightseeing. On Wednesday we had an opportunity to visit Lyon's old town and botanical garden.



Fig. 2 The most expensive palm tree on the world



Fig. 3 A giant fern and its leaves



Fig. 4 A lotus flower



Fig. 5 Close to the botanical garden, there was also a ZOO.

At the end of the course, traditionally, the exam was held. With teachers like these the outcome could not be different – everyone passed with flying colours. It was time to say good bye to Lyon. For sure we will remember the course and the knowledge we gained will not go to waste.